Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAKAR 06173 161110Z ACTION AF-10

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R 160800Z AUG 78 FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR TO USDOC WASHDC INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5341 AMEMBASSY LAGOS AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BTRA, BEXP, EINV, SG

SUBJECT: VISIT OF LES MATTHEWS OF PISO INTERNATIONAL

REF: (A) STATE 190065, (B) USDOC 10167 (NOTAL)

- 1. LES MATTHEWS OF PISO INTERNATIONAL, EXPORT MANAGEMENT FIRM, VISITED DAKAR AUGUST 9-13 TO MAKE PREPARATIONS FOR PROPOSED HOUSTON TRADE DELEGATION TRIP TO SENEGAL OCTOBER 22-25. (REF A).
- 2. MATTHEWS, IN COMPANY OF EMBOFF, MADE CALLS AT INDUSTRIAL FREE ZONE, PRIME MINISTRY, PORT AUTHORITY, DELEGATION OF TOURISM AND SEVERAL LOCAL BUSINESSES. HE ALSO TOURED PETITE COTE AREA PROPOSED FOR TOURISM DEVELOPMENT. WITHOUT EXCEPTION, SENEGALESE CONTACTS WELCOMED IDEA OF TRADE DELEGATION. MOST ENTHUSIASTIC WAS FREE ZONE DIRECTOR WHO HAS HAD LITTLE LUCK ATTRACTING INVESTORS OVER PAST TWO YEARS. TIME DID NOT PERMIT CALLS AT MINISTRIES OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLAN. EMBASSY WILL INFORM BOTH VIA DIPLOMATIC NOTE TO MFA.
- 3. TENTATIVE PROGRAM FOR DELEGATION, WHICH MATTHEWS FIGURES WILL NUMBER ABOUT 25 FOR DAKAR SEGMENT, INCLUDES SEMINAR AT FREE ZONE, TOUR OF PORT, TRIP TO PETITE COTE, AND TETE A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TETES FOR CERTAIN POTENTIAL INVESTORS AND THEIR SENEGALESE COUNTERPARTS.

4. MATTHEWS MENTIONED THAT DELEGATION MAY INCLUDE USDOC OFFICIAL, MAYOR OF HOUSTON, AND TEXAS CONGRESSMAN. WE UNDERSTAND THAT MATTHEWS WILL BE IN WASHINGTON SOON TO DISCUSS TRIP WITH STATE AND COMMERCE. POST PREPARED TO GIVE DELEGATION FULL

SUPPORT AND WILL PROCEED WITH ARRANGEMENTS UNLESS OTHERWISE ADVISED.

5. USDOC-SPONSORED AGRIBUSINESS SEMINAR MISSION TAKES PLACE HERE OCTOBER 25-NOVEMBER 1 (REF B). POST SEES NO CONFLICT WITH HOUSTON PROGRAM BUT WOULD APPRECIATE EARLY NOTICE ON REQUIREMENTS FOR BOTH EVENTS.
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